



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

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North Dakota Department of Health Announces New Child-Care and School Immunization Requirements

BISMARCK, N.D. – New immunization requirements for child-care and school attendance became effective Jan. 1, 2008, according to Molly Sander, immunization program manager for the North Dakota Department of Health.

As of January 1, children are required to be age-appropriately immunized against hepatitis A, rotavirus and pneumococcal disease for child-care attendance. Parents will be given until April 1, 2008, to get their children up-to-date for the new requirements.

Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, children will be required to be immunized with a second dose of chickenpox vaccine for kindergarten entry. For middle school entry, children will be required to be immunized against meningococcal disease, as well as tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis.

The new requirements are in addition to previously required immunizations. Parents are urged to contact their child's health-care provider or local public health unit to determine whether or not their child is up-to-date on immunizations.

Parents may choose to exempt their children from immunization requirements on the basis of a religious, philosophical or moral objection. A physician's signature is required for medical exemptions. In addition, children may claim a history-of-disease exemption if they already had chickenpox and do not need to be vaccinated.

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“Immunizations are one of the best ways to help our children grow up healthy and strong,” Sander said. “The new immunization requirements were added in an effort to increase immunization rates and reduce the incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases in North Dakota.”

For more information, contact Molly Sander, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.4556.

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